Import of cattle from Australia

†2379. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 337 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd November, 2002 and state:

(a) the number of cattle imported from Australia during the last one year; and

(b) the total foreign exchange spent thereon and whether any health check-up was carried out before their import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) 201 Cattle were imported from Australia during the last one year, as per the quarantine records.

(b) Foreign exchange to the tune of 6,71,550 dollars equivalent to Rs. 3,28,38,795.00 was spent for importing these cattle.

The animals were subjected to health check-up by the Australian authorities before their import.

Conservation of flood water for drought

2380. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether drought or floods have been afflicting the same region or States like Orissa, one after the other since decades;

(b) whether any short, medium or long term measures have been devised to conserve flood water, for use in drought-hit areas; and

(c) if so, how far these have proved effective to control miseries and devastation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is concerned with coordination of matters relating to drought only. The Ministry of Home Affairs is concerned with matters relating to all other natural calamities. According to available

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

information, in the recent past, different regions of the country have been affected by various natural calamities. While the primary responsibility for taking necessary action is that of the State Government concerned, as number of related schemes/programmes are implemented by the Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments, to reduce the adverse impact due to these natural calamities.

Drinking water and fodder in drought affected States

2381. SHRI DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether availability of drinking water and fodder was reviewed by Government in the wake of severe drought conditions in Andhra Pradesh and other drought-affected States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Assessment of availability of water and fodder and the assistance required by drought affected States is part and parcel of over-all assessment to be carried out by the Central Teams, which are then considered finally by the High Level Committee (HLC) for assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). No separate assessements were carried out either for Andhra Pradesh or for other States. The over-all situation in this behalf is under control except in Rajasthan where Railways are transporting water and fodder, free of cost. The situation in many other States may, however, warrant similar steps in the next few months.

(c) Necessary action has to be taken by the State Governments concerned.

Drought measures for Kerala

2382. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government sought financial grants to undertake relief measures in drought hit places in the State;